

**Wildfire Mitigation Plan 2026-2028
Data Response**

BVES Data Request No.	OEIS-P-WMP_2025-BVES-009
Request Date:	May 28, 2025
Due Date:	June 2, 2025
Requester:	Blythe Denton, Senior Wildfire Safety Analyst

SUBJECT(S):

Q01. Regarding Minor Undergrounding Upgrade Projects

Total Attachments: None

BVES RESPONSE

Q01. Regarding Minor Undergrounding Upgrade Projects:

On page 120 of its 2026-2028 Base WMP, BVES states that it “conducts small undergrounding projects for new developments and services and minor upgrades to existing facilities. When feasible, BVES works to install UG facilities for new developments and services to reduce the number of overhead facilities and therefore the risk those facilities pose to wildfire. BVES also conducts small upgrades to existing UG facilities so that service is safe, reliable, and of high quality.” Page 84 of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan Guidelines (February 2025), states that electrical corporations are required to discuss “undergrounding of electrical lines and/or equipment,” which refers to undergrounding existing lines.

- a. BVES’s minor undergrounding activity target has a unit of percent of assigned budget. Provide a breakdown of the assigned budget into the following categories:
 - i. New Development
 - ii. Minor Upgrades to Existing Facilities
- b. Provide a detailed description of the minor upgrades performed on existing facilities.

RESPONSE:

- a. Approximately 35% of the assigned budget is generally directed at new development projects and approximately 65% of the assigned budget is generally directed towards minor upgrades to existing underground facilities.
- b. Below are some representative project examples of minor upgrades performed on existing facilities:
 - BVES has existing underground facilities in the rights-of-way of the County of San Bernardino, the City of Big Bear Lake, and Caltrans. When these organizations conduct road adjustments, road widening, roundabout installation projects, they sometimes require BVES relocate existing underground facilities. Under the Franchise agreements, BVES is obligated to relocate as required by the project affecting the right-of-way.
 - BVES has had to replaced existing aging underground infrastructure due to unexpected failures such as underground cable system failure and underground equipment failures.